

REMARKS

The Office Action has indicated that claims 1-17 and 29-34 are allowable. The Office Action has rejected claims 18-23, 25-28 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Snyder. An objection was entered as to dependent claim 24. The rejected independent claims are claims 18, 25 and 35.

This paper amends claim 18 and cancels claim 24-28 and 35-37. The limitations of objected to dependent claim 24 have been added to independent claim 18 with claim 24 now canceled. It is thus submitted that independent claim 18 and the claims depending therefrom (19-23) are also in condition for allowance.

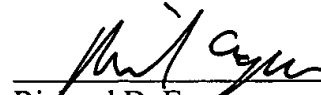
Although the Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claims 25-28 and 35-37, the Applicants cancel those claims without prejudice. The Applicants reserve the right, and presently intend to pursue the rejected claims in a continuation application and to present arguments with respect to those claims in such application. Furthermore, the Applicants note that it does not cancel these claims because of the rejection over the cited references; rather, the Applicants merely cancel those claims to expedite the issuance of the claims for which allowable subject material has been indicated.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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